

The CSU Regional Archives is currently extending its opening hours to include the first Saturday of every month. This initiative has been put in place to cater for those researchers who are unable to visit the archives on weekdays during normal business hours.

The next Saturday opening will occur on October 6, from 10am to 3pm.



### what you need to know

■ The CSU Regional Archives are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building on South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue. Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with inquiries.

For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straight-forward inquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour including copying and postage.

For further information, phone 02 6925 3666, email [archive@csu.edu.au](mailto:archive@csu.edu.au), or visit our website at [www.csu.edu.au/research/archives](http://www.csu.edu.au/research/archives) for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.



at the archives  
Wayne Doubleday



as well as being a regional repository for the Riverina and Murray regions, the CSU Regional Archives (CSURA) is also designated by State Records NSW as one of 40 community access points spread across NSW.

This means that CSURA holds a copy of the archives resource kit (ARK), which is available for all researchers and members of the public to utilise.

The ARK comprises the most heavily used and popular colonial records that demonstrate the administration of the early colony and how this affected the lives of the people living therein.

These records have been copied onto microfilm and microfiche and can be easily accessed in the CSURA search room.

Subjects covered include the Colonial Secretary's papers, records relating to convicts, shipping and immigration, births, deaths and marriages, the early returns of the colony of NSW including censuses and electoral rolls, naturalisation records, indexes to coronial and inquest records, land and surveying records, and records of public servants and other professional occupations.

The Colonial Secretary's papers, which cover the period 1788-1825, are considered to be one of the most comprehensive collections of public records relating to the early years of European settlement in Australia. The papers include material relating to areas such as early settlers, convicts, land, exploration, Aboriginal people, stores, the military and civil service, shipping, administration of the out settlements, clergy.

# A wealth of information

manufacturing and agriculture, timber getting, trials and court hearings, and all aspects of life in early NSW. The records normally take the form of letters received and a few drafts of letters sent, copies of agreements, despatches, out-letters and general orders, instructions, ordinary regulations, proclamations, memoranda, reports and returns.

Convict records form a substantial part of the ARK. Between 1788 and 1842 some 80,000 convicts were transported to NSW. Of these, about 85 per cent were men and 15 per cent were women.

About two thirds of these were English convicts (along with a small number of Scottish and Welsh), with the Irish making up the remaining one third. The majority came from towns and cities and 75 per cent were transported for crimes against property. A wide variety of convict records appear in the ARK including convict indents (the record of a convict's arrival in the colony, which contains detailed information about each convict), permissions to marry, assignment and punishment registers, tickets of leave (a form of parole), pardons and certificates of freedom.

Immigration and shipping in limited numbers began in the first decades of settlement in the new colony and fluctuated according to economic, social and political conditions in Britain. In the new colony, labour was in short supply providing a ready means of employment.

Immigration increased gradually from the mid-1820s and then rapidly from around 1840, increasing and fluctuating as the century progressed. Immigration records in the ARK fall into two major categories, assisted and unassisted immigrants. The former (also known as "bounty" immigrants) had their passage subsidised or paid for under one of the assisted immigration schemes that operated in the colony of NSW. Assisted passenger records in the ARK cover the period 1838-1886. Unassisted passengers were "free" settlers who paid their way to NSW.

You will find unassisted passenger lists for the period 1826-1900 in the ARK. The records are arranged by date of arrival.

Naturalisation records were also maintained by the Colonial Secretary and provide a great

deal of information about an individual. Naturalisation was the means by which aliens (non-British subjects) gained the privileges and rights of citizenship held by British subjects or people born in NSW.

Any person born outside the British Empire who had resided in NSW for a period of five years and who wished to vote or own land needed to become naturalised.

This means that the naturalisation records in ARK mainly relate to people from European countries as well as from countries such as China, the United States of America and South America. People from parts of the British Empire (eg Ireland and Canada) did not need to be naturalised.

The records show the name of the ship and year of arrival of the person being naturalised. The land records included in the ARK comprise mostly of early land grants and departhing licences (permission to lease land beyond the boundaries of the 19 counties) covering the period 1788-1865.

Early birth, death and marriage records can also be found in the ARK. The records are taken from very early registers and cover the years 1788-1856.

Records relating to orphans are also in the ARK, including orphan school admission registers (1817-1833) and applications to admit or remove children from orphan schools (1825-1833).

If you are searching for a particular person or family member who you know worked for the government for a period of time, then you should try looking at the profession and occupation records found in the ARK. These include the "blue books" and public service lists (1822-1870), records of appointment to government offices (1814-1825) and the register of police (1862-1904).

If you are searching for publicans' licences between 830-1861, these are also in the ARK.

Population records can be very useful for those researchers undertaking genealogical research. Both electoral rolls (1842-1864) and the census records from 1828 and 1901 are found in the ARK. For more information on the ARK, or any of the topics covered above, please contact staff at the CSU Regional Archives on 6925 3666.